

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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TAGS: PEPR, IR, AS

SUBJECT: CROWN PRINCE REZA PAHLAVI'S VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

REF: (A) CANBERRA 8941 (B) TEHRAN 11237

1. SUMMARY: CROWN PRINCE REZA PAHLAVI'S SIX-DAY VISIT TO AUSTRALIA WAS HEAVILY LADED WITH CEREMONIAL AND PRO-TOCOLARY FORMALITIES, BUT APPEARED TO LEAVE BOTH IRANIANS AND AUSTRALIANS WITH A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. INSO FAR AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DETERMINE, THERE WERE NO PARTICULARLY SUBSTATIVE DISCUSSIONS, ALTHOUGH THE CROWN PRINCE STRUCK HIS HOSTS AS BEING A BRIGHT, SENSITIVE AND ABLE YOUNG MAN. END SUMMARY.

2. CROWN PRINCE REZA SPENT THREE DAYS IN CANBERRA, A DAY ON THE BARRIER REEF, AND A COUPLE OF DAYS EACH IN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE. IN CANBERRA HE WAS GIVEN A DINNER BY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA AND LADY COWNE, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF GOA MINISTERS; HE LATER HAD THEM FOR A RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT THE IRANIAN EMBASSY. HE VISITED THE CSIRO (COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANIZATION) PLANT RESEARCH LABORATORY, A CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, SOME ART

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GALLERIES, AND LAID A WREATH AT THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL.

3. IN THE NORTHERN PART OF AUSTRALIA, THE CROWN PRINCE VISITED CAIRNS (SITE OF JOINT US-AUSTRALIAN CATALINA FLYING BOAT OPERATIONS DURING THE EARLY PHASES OF WORLD WAR II/PACIFIC), TOOK A CRUISE OUT TO THE GREAT

BARRIER REEF, AND SAW THE UNDERWATER OBSERVATORY AND MARINELAND AQUARIUM. IN MELBOURNE HE WAS GIVEN A LUNCH ON BEHALF OF THE GOA BY THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTIVITY, AND VISITED "BOLINDA VALE" WHERE HE SAW A TYPICAL "STATION" WITH STUD CATTLE AND SHEEP SHEARING. PART OF HIS PROGRAM INCLUDED A VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S AIRCRAFT FACTORIES: PRINCE REZA WAS APPARENTLY FASCINATED BY THE AUSTRALIAN-BUILT "NOMAD" AIRCRAFT (A LIGHT TWIN ENGINE TRUBOPROP TRANSPORT SIMILAR IN CAPABILITY TO THE SHORT SKYVAN) WITH ITS VERY SHORT TAKEOFF AND LANDING CAPABILITIES. THE CROWN PRINCE WAS PRESENTED WITH MODELS OF THE AIRCRAFT AND OF A (AUSTRALIAN-BUILT) "TURANA" TARGET DRONE.

4. IN SYDNEY, THE FINAL STOP OF HIS AUSTRALIAN TOUR, THE CROWN PRINCE TOOK TIME OUT TO PLAY AN IMPROMPTU GAME OF BASKETBALL AT AN AUSTRALIAN SPORT AND RECREATION CENTER; VISITED THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY'S SYDNEY BASE "HMAS PLATYPUS", TOOK IN THE ZOO, A HARBOR CRUISE, THE OPERA HOUSE, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SIGHTS.

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